



National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center

Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Virginia

# Inside Wallops

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## Wallops Mobile Range Control System Provides Remote Support

A Mobile Range Control System (MRSC), developed by the Wallops Electrical Systems Branch, is providing the ability to conduct satellite launches at established and remote locations worldwide.

The self-contained MRSC, accompanied by other tracking equipment, supported the launch of Spain's Minisat satellite on a Pegasus rocket from Gran Canaria, Canary Islands, Spain in April 1997.



*The Wallops Mobile Range Control System set up in the Canary Islands.*

The system was carried to Coquina, NC, to provide support for the Pegasus launches from Wallops of Orbcom I, II, and II for Orbital Science Corporation.

The MRSC is scheduled to travel to Kodiak, AK, in August 2000 to provide support to the Alaska Aerospace Development Corporation (AADC) for NASA Goddard Flight Center's, Vegetation Canopy Lidar (VCL) mission. The VCL satellite will be carried aloft by a Lockheed-Martin Athena I vehicle.

The MRCS can be used to support launches of expendable launch vehicles (ELV), tactical missiles and sounding rockets. The remote range control system is equipped with Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) power systems, Range Safety Display Systems, real-time computer processors, communication systems and all equipment necessary for supporting mobile range control and safety operations including redundant command destruct transmitters that can be activated for termination of a flight for safety purposes.

Prior to the development of the MRCS, subsystems in several mobile trailers were integrated upon arrival and set-up at remote sites.

"In comparison with the older collection of subsystems in separate trailers, the fully integrated MRCS can be completely tested prior to shipment," said Dean Price, MRCS Project Manager. "This helps reduce mission-support and cost."

Improvements that have been incorporated into the MRCS include hardware and real-time software data processing that generates and displays impact prediction data following rocket launches. The redundant system only requires inputs from mobile tracking radar and telemetry systems to perform the range safety process.

An article on the MRSC appeared in the April issue of *Tech Briefs*.

## Wallops Shorts.....

### Fire Department

Wallops Fire Department Emergency Medical Technicians responded to a medical emergency in the Navy Housing Complex and transported a patient to Peninsula Regional Medical Center on April 17.

### TSP Open Season Approaches

The next open enrollment season for the Thrift Savings Plan is from May 15 to July 31.

## NOAA, NASA TO Launch GOES-L Weather Satellite

With hurricane season quickly approaching, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will soon have an additional weather spacecraft in orbit to assist in forecasting the nation's weather.

NASA is scheduled to launch the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES-L) spacecraft from Cape Canaveral Air Station, FL, on May 15 at the opening of a launch window, which extends from 2:23 - 4:41 a.m. EDT.

GOES-L is the latest in the current series of advanced geostationary weather satellites in service. Once in orbit it will become GOES-11, joining GOES-8 and GOES-10 in space.

GOES-8 and GOES-10 are the currently operational GOES satellites, one overlooks the Atlantic Coast and out into the Atlantic Ocean; the other overlooks the Pacific Coast and well out into the Pacific Ocean. After checkout, GOES-L will become the on-orbit spare to be activated when one of the operational satellites needs to be replaced.

NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center is responsible for the procurement, development and verification testing of the spacecraft, instruments and unique ground equipment.

Following deployment of the spacecraft from the Atlas IIA launch vehicle, Goddard is responsible for the mission operation phase leading to injection of the satellite into geostationary orbit and initial in-orbit satellite checkout and evaluation.

NOAA is responsible for program funding and the in-orbit operation of the system.

## This is a message from Space Week Bottle Water Rocket Control Center.

Many organizations are preparing and building their rockets to be entered into the water rocket contest during Space Week, May 3-7. Many are being constructed under high security ??? E-108 ??? F-10 ??? .

For those organizations/teams who have not started building their rocket, time is running out. All rockets must be ready by April 29. Judging in the overall looks and aesthetics category will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 30 in the Cafeteria.

Launches are scheduled for May 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Softball Field between Building F-10 and the main gate. Contact Tony Goodyear, x1681 or Jan Neville, x1526 for further information.

## Afternoon Tea for Wallops Employees



Instead of the monthly morning coffee for employees, there will be an employee tea with Center Director Al Diaz from 1 to 2 p.m., April 29, in the E-2 Conference Room (Cafeteria).

All employees are invited to attend.

The first 30 minutes will be an informal session to allow employees to talk individually with Mr. Diaz and Wallops senior managers. The second 30 minutes will be an open forum for questions and answers.

Iced drinks will be available.

**Visitor Center Events  
During May**

**May 1: "Model Rocket Launch"**

A model rocket launch will be held at 1 p.m. Models of various rockets will be launched. Model rocketeers are invited to bring their own rockets and launch them. The launch will be canceled if it is raining or winds exceed 18 mph.

**May 15: "Scavenger Hunt"**

A Scavenger Hunt will be held at 1 p.m. for children ages 5 to 10 years. The 40-minute activity will introduce the children to NASA, specifically Wallops Flight Facility and its mission. Children who complete the hunt will receive a NASA lithograph and a coloring book. Parental participation is requested.

**Saturdays and Sundays:  
"Puppets in Space"**

"Puppets in Space", a 10-minute puppet show, will be presented at 11 a.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Puppet astronauts and Sam the monkey will explore spaceflight, including the space suit. An eight-minute version of the film "Astrosmiles" follows the puppet show.

**Daily: "Space Ace"**

Children ages 5-10 years can earn a "Space Ace" certificate and a lithograph during their Visitor Center experience by completing an activity sheet.

**Sundays: "Humans in Space"**

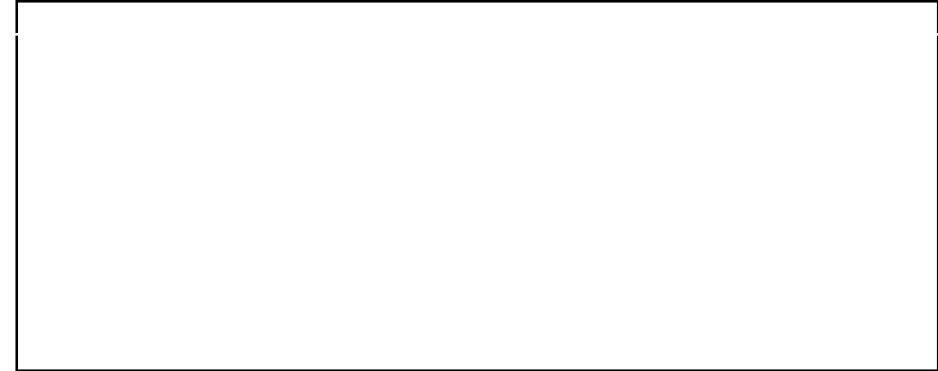
"Humans in Space" is the subject of a 1 p.m. program for children of all ages. The 30-minute program looks at living and working in space, including a review of the astronauts' culinary delights and their wardrobe. The program is followed by a hands-on activity during which children have the opportunity to create their own "space helmet."

The Visitor Center is open Thursday through Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is closed on Tuesday and Wednesday. The Visitor Center will be open Memorial Day, May 31. For further information, call x2298.

**Part-Time Graduate Study  
Program—Call For  
Applications**

This year's call for applications for new and continuing participants in Goddard's 1999-2000 Part-Time Graduate Study Program (PTGSP) is being distributed by mail to all GSFC employees. It also is available on the Office of Human Resources Web page at: <http://ohr.gsfc.nasa.gov/Hot/PTGrad.htm>

If you are interested in joining or extending your participation in the program, submit your paperwork to Matt Jarvis (Code 114; Bldg. 1, Rm. 234; x66-3061 or 66-0899).



**Wallops Hosts "Take Our Children to Work Day"**

The NASA Wallops Flight Facility and Navy AEGIS Combat Systems Center (ACSC) Federal Women's Program Committees hosted Take Our Children to Work Day, April 22, for approximately 60 children from 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades.



*Phil Eberspeaker (left), Carrier Systems Branch, demonstrates Newton's Law.  
Digital photos by Rick Huey*

NASA and AEGIS along with support from the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) were among a number of organizations across the country participating in the national event designed to provide girls and boys an opportunity to see women and men working together and explore non-traditional careers in the federal workforce. The theme for the seventh annual event was "The Future is Me!" In

**New FEGLI Table, Rates**

The Federal Employees Group Life Insurance (FEGLI) program open season began April 24 and runs to June 30. A special table of rates is available on the FEDweek website: <http://www.fedweek.com>

Included in the easy-to-use table are the current and new rates that will be in effect for choices made during the open enrollment period.

**WANTED:** Small utility trailer with or without sideboards. Call Donnie Holloway after 6 p.m. (757) 336-5510.

**FOR SALE:** Brother portable typewriter in carrying case - \$65.00. Chandelier, antique brass & wood-like trim with five large gold translucent globes - \$40.00. Call Kevin Harmon after 6 p.m. (757) 824-6121.

**FOR SALE:** Beautiful AKC registered Golden Retriever puppies. Two blonde males left. Sire- champion bloodline. Call (757) 336-6285 after 5 p.m.

**FOR SALE:** 1980 Schult mobile home. In very good condition. Two bedrooms, one bath, living room, den, kitchen, central air and heat, +appliances. Call for more info: (757) 824-0573.



*Rich Rogers (right), Aircraft Office, readies a bottle rocket for launch.*

addition to spending time with their parents or sponsors, the children will had an opportunity to participate in special activities that had been planned throughout the day.

Children spent the morning in areas that emphasized careers available within the government and the preparation required for these positions. These areas included engineering, communications, information control and science. They then had a choice of spending the afternoon with their sponsor or attending activities such as a weather balloon launch, space suit demonstration, hands-on activities at the Wallops Fire Department and tours of the NASA Range Control Center, NASA research aircraft and hangar area.

**Clean-out Campaign Winner**

The Wallops Environmental Office and Occu-Health Incorporated recently challenged other contractor teams to set aside any out-dated and unlabeled chemicals as a part of a March Madness Spring Clean-out Campaign.

After the Environmental Office had made pick-ups and inspected the work areas, the participating contractor team was eligible for a random drawing. The winner of the drawing for a pizza lunch was Grounds Maintenance Group, Eastern Shore Action.

The Environmental Office is available for clean-outs and pick-ups of any chemicals. For further information call Marianne Simko, x2127.

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